

## Subject

Update on Vision Zero Action Plan and Bikeway and Pedestrian Master Plans

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## Department

PW - Traffic & Transportation

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## Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council receive an update on the Vision Zero Action Plan and the Bikeway and Pedestrian Master Plans.

## Discussion

This is the eleventh Vision Zero quarterly report for the Mayor and Council and provides a status update for Vision Zero action items from the past three months. The update represents progress made on action items during the third quarter of FY 2023, roughly during the period between January 1, and March 31, 2023. While no new action items were completed over this quarter, sub-objectives of action items were completed, and ongoing work such as organizing, scheduling, researching, materials development, engagement, budget development and other efforts have taken place.

This report includes a summary of the progress made on several action items, coordination efforts within City staff from different departments, and engagement with external groups and agencies. It also provides an update on the status of both the Bikeway Master Plan and the Pedestrian Master Plan.

Staff does not presently recommend any revisions to the Vision Zero Action Plan timeline.

### Summary of Action Item Progress:

The Progress Table (Attachment A) shows the status and progress of all action items since the plan's adoption. These action items are also identified in the Action Plan timeline (Attachment B). Below is a summary of progress made on several Vision Zero action items during the previous quarter. Please note that not every action item is included in the list below.

#### 1. Crash Analysis / Predictive Analysis

DPW staff completed the 2017-2021 crash analysis during the preceding quarter. The findings of this analysis were used to identify sidewalk gaps for future feasibility studies, and city and state intersections for future intersection safety audits.

#### 4. Evaluate Crossings and Unsignalized Intersections & 6. Improve Traffic Signals

DPW staff evaluated intersection improvements submitted by the City's consultant at five City-maintained, Vision Zero intersections. The five intersections reviewed are: East Gude Drive and Taft Street/Court, Edmonston Drive and Lewis Avenue, Fleet Street and Wootton Parkway, Preserve Parkway and Wootton Parkway, and Seven Locks Road and Wootton Parkway. The consultant report, along with

recommended improvements, was completed and staff has initiated implementing improvements. It is expected that all improvements will be completed by Fall 2023.

Staff has also organized two virtual public meetings to discuss the proposed improvements at the intersections of Fleet Street and Wootton Parkway, and Edmonston Drive and Lewis Avenue. These intersections are close to residential properties and staff would like to share the proposed improvements as well as solicit feedback from the public. The public meetings will be held on May 17, 2023.

Staff identified the next set of Vision Zero intersections to carry out intersection safety audits. These intersections include West Gude Drive and Research Boulevard, West Gude Drive and Piccard Drive, West Gude Drive and Gaither Road, Gaither Road and Redland Boulevard, and East Gude Drive and Rothgeb Drive.

The 11 Vision Zero intersection safety audits on state-maintained roadways for Action Items # 4 & 6 are under review by MDOT SHA Office of Traffic Safety. City staff met with MDOT SHA on April 27, 2023, and MDOT SHA provided an update on the progress made for the intersection safety audits at those 11 intersections. A final report, including the intersection safety audits, response from the MDOT Office of Traffic Safety, and a memorandum of action describing the improvements MDOT SHA will implement is expected in the Fall.

Staff identified the next set of state intersections to request for review. These include: First Street (MD 28) and Baltimore Road, Frederick Road (MD 355) and Watkins Pond Boulevard, Frederick Road (MD 355) and Ridgemont Avenue, Frederick Road (MD 355) and King Farm Boulevard, Frederick Road (MD 355) and Redland Boulevard, Hungerford Drive (MD 355) and North Washington Street, Hungerford Drive (MD 355) and Mannakee Street, Hungerford Drive (MD 355) and Beall Avenue, Norbeck Road (MD 28) and Avery Road, Rockville Pike (MD 355) and Edmonston Drive, Rockville Pike (MD 355) and First Street, Rockville Pike (MD 355) and Templeton Place, Rockville Pike (MD 355) and Congressional Lane, Rockville Pike (MD 355) and Veirs Mill Road, Rockville Pike (MD 355) and Richard Montgomery Street, Veirs Mill Road (MD 28) and Rockville Pike (MD 355), and West Montgomery Avenue (MD 28) and Hurley Avenue. Staff intends to include these intersections in an upcoming Safe Streets and Roads for All grant application.

## 5. State/Montgomery County/City Project Collaboration

City staff regularly meets and coordinates with staff from MDOT SHA, MCDOT, and M-NCPPC Montgomery County Planning Department. As indicated in #4, above, the completed report regarding the intersection safety audits MDOT SHA improvements at the 11 Vision Zero intersections are expected to be shared with City staff in the Fall.

MDOT SHA continues to design the ADA sidewalk improvements along Rockville Pike (MD 355). These plans are expected to be shared with PW staff in the summer.

## 7. Accelerate Sidewalk Construction

The consultant incorporated comments from City staff regarding the concept plans for the six sidewalk projects. These include Frederick Avenue, Highland Avenue, Monroe Street, Nelson Street, Reading Terrace, and Wood Lane. Staff led walk/roll-the-block public meetings for Frederick Avenue, Highland Avenue, Reading Terrace, and Wood Lane in April. Staff also facilitated a public meeting with Victory Court residents to discuss Monroe Street. In May, based on all the feedback received from the community, staff will recommend which sidewalk segments should be deemed feasible and advance to design and construction. Staff has identified the next set of sidewalk gaps to evaluate for feasibility. These include Carr Avenue, Henry Road, Gail Avenue, Ritchie Parkway, Watts Branch Parkway, and Woodland Road.

The Transportation Alternatives Program grant agreement was reviewed by the City Attorney's Office and MDOT. It is expected to be signed by the City and MDOT in May. Staff has also prepared a scope of work and submitted it to the MDOT SHA District 3 consultant for a quote. This project will include evaluating seven sidewalk gaps in the Twinbrook neighborhood.

#### 8. Create Pedestrian Master Plan

Staff continues to work on development of the Pedestrian Master Plan, which is discussed in detail below.

#### 9. Expand Network of Safe Bicycle Facilities

Staff continues to work on expanding bicycle facilities throughout the City, which is discussed in detail below as part of the Bikeway Master Plan implementation.

#### 11. Explore Expanding Automated Enforcement

The Rockville City Police Department continues to work with the contractor to update all speed monitoring cameras in the City. Data collected from automated enforcement cameras, including the number of tickets issued per month and camera location, are shared with Public Works staff and used to evaluate roadway safety projects.

#### 12. Expand Traffic Law Enforcement and Distracted Driving Detection Program

RCPD applied for the FY 2024 Maryland Highway Safety Office Grant for Impaired Driving, Distracted Driving, and Speed Enforcement. It is expected that awardees will be notified in the Fall.

#### 16. Create Comprehensive Outreach Strategy

PW and PIO staff drafted multiple articles for bicycle safety travel for Rockville Reports. This included a general bicycle safety and bicycle tip-sheet article in March and a Bike Month related article for the May

Rockville Reports. Additionally, PIO staff regularly post transportation safety informational posts on the City's social media accounts.

## **25. Create Vision Zero Webpage**

The most recent quarterly update was posted online along with the most up to date progress chart and timeline. Additionally, the Vision Zero projects webpage was updated to include the Construction updates for the Town Center Road Diet project, upcoming public meetings for the Fleet and Monroe Complete Streets Projects, as well as the Vision Zero Intersection Safety Audits.

## **26. Publish Collision Data**

Staff continues to provide links to the Automated Crash Reporting System. Additionally, staff share the Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee developed monthly crash statistics summary.

### **Pedestrian Master Plan Update:**

A first draft of the Pedestrian Master Plan has been completed and reviewed internally by DPW staff. Before the draft can be shared with the Rockville Pedestrian Advocacy Committee, the Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Transportation and Mobility Commission and the public, the draft needs to be formatted and graphics completed. It is expected that the draft will be shared with the public in May 2023.

Additionally, the Pedestrian Master Plan project webpage (<https://engagerockville.com/pedestrian-master-plan>) is active and provides opportunities for residents and visitors to learn about the project, submit ideas and questions, and provide comments through an interactive map and survey. There have been 239 survey responses and 94 location comments submitted so far. While there have been no new survey responses, there have been six new map comments since last quarter.

### **Bikeway Master Plan Update:**

The Vision Zero Action Plan has set a goal of building all bike facilities proposed in the City's Bikeway Master Plan (BMP) by 2028 (action item #9). DPW Staff has solicited a request for quotes for the design of the Martins Lane bicycle lane, which is funded by the Maryland Bikeways grant. Additionally, the City is working with a contractor and exploring the best options to procure bicycle and pedestrian counters, which is funded by a separate Maryland Bikeways grant. Both grant agreements were approved by the Mayor and Council during the last quarter.

Additionally, staff is preparing a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant and a Maryland Bikeways grant for this upcoming fiscal year. The TAP grant project proposed is to develop a 30% engineering plan for the Fleet and Monroe Complete Streets project, while the Maryland Bikeways grant proposed is to evaluate the feasibility and design of bicycle facilities along E. Jefferson Street and Halpine Road near Congressional Plaza.

### **Internal Staff Coordination:**

Staff from Rockville's Police Department, Public Information Office, and the Department of Public Works correspond regularly to discuss the status of individual action items and coordinate on how to accomplish Vision Zero goals within the city.

Engineering: Traffic and Transportation staff coordinates with Engineering staff to update the roadway cross sections to include multimodal improvements.

Education/Outreach: The Public Information and Community Engagement Division continues to educate the community at large about Vision Zero principles and transportation safety practices.

Enforcement: Transportation safety remains a priority for the RCPD. Patrol teams and the traffic unit continue to focus efforts on specific locations and issues based on collision data, known trouble spots, and community complaints. The RCPD coordinates with RPAC to develop a monthly crash report which highlights all crashes over the past month and is shared with community stakeholders and RCPD officers.

Vision Zero Task Force: The Vision Zero Task Force includes staff from multiple divisions in DPW, RCPD, and the PIO office. The Task Force meets quarterly to discuss ongoing progress of the Vision Zero Action Plan and meets when needed to carry out a crash response inspection when a serious injury or fatal crash occurs and will be fully invested by the County's Crash Reconstruction Unit.

In response to a serious-injury crash along Veirs Mill Road (MD 586) between Bradley and Meadow Hall Drive, and a fatal crash on West Gude Drive near Watkins Pond Boulevard, the Vision Zero Task force completed a crash response inspection. As a result of the inspection, staff repaired a post and delineator sign near the dead-end close to Midway Avenue.

#### **Coordination with Other Groups:**

This Action Plan requires aligning policies and practices at all levels of government (City, County, and State) and across City commissions and committees, making safety the highest priority for all roadways.

The Transportation and Mobility Commission (TMC), Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee (RBAC), and Rockville Pedestrian Advisory Committee (RPAC): The TMC, RBAC, and RPAC has been kept up to date about the City's Vision Zero efforts during their regular monthly meetings. Staff provides project briefings and status updates for transportation projects and seeks comment when appropriate.

Montgomery County: Staff continues regular communication with the Montgomery County Department of Transportation and the M-NCPPC Montgomery County Planning Department, both of which include their own Vision Zero coordinators. Staff discuss ongoing projects including Vision Zero messaging and outreach, sidewalk maintenance and construction efforts, crash data and prediction analyses, and the bus rapid transit projects.

Maryland State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA): Staff works closely with MDOT SHA to ensure a consistent approach to transportation safety. Additionally, staff submits safety and maintenance requests along state roadways and at State-controlled intersections for review by the MDOT Office of Traffic Safety and Office of Highway Development.

Metropolitan Washington Council of Government (MWCOC): Staff attends the Bicycle and Pedestrian Subcommittee, Car Free Day Subcommittee, and the Bike-to-Work-Day Subcommittee, which all provide ideas and opportunities to promote safe walking and bicycling. Staff also attended the MWCOC annual micro-mobility seminar to learn about the most up to date practices related to rideshare e-scooters and bikeshare.

The City is currently engaged in two MWCOC funded projects, a Complete Streets feasibility study for Fleet and Monroe Streets, and a protected intersection analysis for Beall Avenue at Maryland Avenue and MD 355. A virtual public meeting for the Fleet and Monroe Complete Streets project was conducted

in early May, and a virtual public meeting for the Beall Avenue intersections project is scheduled for mid-May. These projects are expected to be completed in June.

The City also recently received an award for \$80,000 for the FY 24 MWCOG Transportation Land Use Connections program, which will study the feasibility of implementing a Complete Street along Mannakee Street.

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## **Mayor and Council History**

The Mayor and Council adopted a resolution endorsing the development and adoption of a Vision Zero Policy for the City of Rockville on October 15, 2018. The Mayor and Council adopted the Vision Zero Action Plan and Action Plan Timeline on July 6, 2020. Mayor and Council has received quarterly update from staff since November 2020.

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## **Next Steps**

Staff will continue to work on Vision Zero action items per the action item timeline. The next update will be provided to the Mayor and Council in late July 2023. Staff will continue to focus on the Pedestrian Master Plan, grant applications and to advance sidewalks and bicycle lane projects.

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## **Attachments:**

Attachment A - Action Items Progress Chart - 05-2023 (PDF)

Attachment B - Action Items Timeline - 05-2023 (PDF)